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NMC Policy Ltr No. 23-98
December 4, 1998

From: Commanding Officer, National Maritime Center
To: Distribution

Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF TRAINING COURSES AS PROOF OF COMPETENCY IN
BRIDGE TEAMWORK PROCEDURES

Ref: (a) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and
Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW)

1. This policy letter cancels and replaces policy letter 19-98 dated October 29, 1998, which provided guidance to the Regional Examination Centers for accepting formal training in bridge teamwork procedures for Deck Officers to qualify for issuance of an STCW-95 form. The enclosure has revised information about the date for accepting training from STAR Center.
2. Regulations II/1 and II/2 and Part A of the STCW Code require that Deck Officers on vessels of over 500 gross tons (International Tonnage Convention) have thorough knowledge of bridge teamwork procedures. Deck officers are required to provide proof of competency in this element before they can be issued an STCW-95 form. Successful completion of a Coast Guard approved or accepted course is one method of proving competency. Proof of competency through actual experience on vessels that practice bridge resource management will be the subject of another policy letter.
3. Mariners who present evidence of having completed any of the courses listed in enclosure (1) after the date indicated will be accepted as meeting the STCW's requirements for competency in this area. This only applies to courses completed prior to 1 August 1998. If the training was completed after that date, it must be approved by the National Maritime Center as meeting the requirements of the STCW. Approval for STCW purposes will be clearly indicated on NMC Course Approval letters.

W. C. BENNETT
By direction

Encl: (1) List of Courses

Dist: All District Commanders (m)
Commandant (G-MSO-1)
All COs MSOs
All Activity Commanders
All RECs

LIST OF APPROVED COURSES IN BRIDGE TEAMWORK (Policy letter 23-98)

COURSE TITLE	TRAINING INSTITUTION	EARLIEST DATE ALLOWED FOR CREDIT
Bridge Resource Management for Tugboats (3 Day)	Marine Safety International	9/1/90
Bridge Resource Management	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	10/9/92
Bridge Team Management (3 Day and 5 Day)	Marine Safety International	10/27/92
Bridge Resource Management	Maritime Institute of Technology	1/1/94
Bridge Resource Management	STAR Center (Toledo, OH and Dania, FL)	1/1/94
Bridge Resource Management	Center for Maritime Education	11/30/94
Bridge Resource Management	State University of New York	1/1/96
Bridge Resource Management	Texas A & M University	6/1/96

Enclosure